

# STRIKES IN MUNITION PLANTS SPREAD FLAMES SWEEPING NEW HAVEN RAILROAD WAREHOUSES FRANCO-BRITISH SHARPLY CHECK HUNS

## LAVIT CALLS WORKERS FROM LIBERTY PLANT; CONFERENCES START

MAJOR GENERAL IRWIN ARRIVES FROM  
WASHINGTON TO TAKE HAND IN SITU-  
ATION WHICH THREATENS NATION  
—ARMS STRIKERS STILL OUT.

Notwithstanding great efforts made by the government of the United States to bring to an amicable settlement the dispute between the Machinists' union and the Remington Arms Co. of Bridgeport, it was announced this afternoon that Samuel Lavit, business agent for the Machinists' union, called a strike at the Liberty Ordnance plant in an effort to tie up the work being done upon government contracts.

Owing to the fact that the vast majority of the workers are loyal to their country and have perfect confidence in the Washington authorities, to remedy any grievances they may have, the machinists who walked out failed to stop the wheels from turning and the machine shops will continue to produce their quotas of munitions.

W. A. Erwin, of Washington, one of the officials of the Ordnance Department, is in Bridgeport, having arrived last Monday. His mission is to investigate the grievances of the workers and adjust them in the same manner as the grievances of the shipbuilders and the railroad workers have been adjusted.

It appears Erwin is making a very thorough investigation so when he returns to Washington he can lay a complete report of conditions before the Labor Commission, of which Ex-President Howard Taft, is a member. The action of the machinists in walking out and retarding the output of munitions has met with protest from other workers and the public.

At 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon Waldo C. Bryant, district ordinance chief, received from Washington a letter signed by Brig-Gen. C. C. Williams, of the Ordnance Department, which appealed to the loyalty of the workers and asked them to stay at their work while the government adjusted their grievances. A copy of this letter was sent to Business Agent Samuel Lavit, of the Machinists' union, and when received by him he in turn showed it to a few other officers of his union remarking:

"Better not show it to the boys now; it would spill the beans."

Both the federal and the local authorities in Bridgeport are preparing for word from the district and local draft boards to begin a roundup of machinists of draft age who have been allowed to work on munitions through industrial exemption. Immediately they quit work for which the exemption was granted they became subject to instant draft in the classes in which they were originally rated.

When a man stays away from the Remington Arms plant for three successive days he is automatically discharged. The district boards are then notified by the factory officials and they in turn notify the local boards. If the man does not appear before his local board immediately and report for army service, his name will be turned over to the agents of the Department of Justice and the police, and he will be placed under arrest.

While government officials from Washington last night were straining every effort to adjust the dispute between the manufacturers and the machinists, Samuel Lavit, accompanied by a body guard, dined and then to a German cafe on Fairfield avenue near the railroad depot.

That the War Department officials in Washington recognize the gravity of the situation in Bridgeport is obvious from the way they have rushed important officials to this city with a view to bringing about a settlement without in any way stopping the work upon the guns which mean life or death to our men at the front. According to notification received from the capital officials they are stunned at the attitude taken by the workers in Bridgeport and are reluctant to believe any body of men should so far forget their duty to the nation.

Brigadier General C. C. Williams' letter of appeal to the workers to continue at their tasks while the government arranged for wage increases was prominently displayed to all the workers in the shops yesterday and today and undoubtedly had the effect of keeping many men at their posts.

The letter was received by Waldo C. Bryant, district ordinance chief, reminding the men that the govern-

## PLANS COMPLETED FOR RECEPTION TO DANIELS

SECRETARY OF NAVY ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE  
TO ARRIVE IN CITY MAY 20TH—WILL AD-  
DRESS WAR RALLY ARRANGED BY  
JUDGE WHEELER.

Plans for the reception of Hon. Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, during his visit to Bridgeport on Monday, May 20th, were tentatively agreed upon last night by the committee arranging for the Secretary's schedule in Bridgeport.

## ONE CONN. BOY KILLED AND 4 ARE WOUNDED

Washington, May 9.—The casualty list today contained 76 names, divided as follows:

Killed in action, 10; died of wounds, 3; died of accident, 2; died of disease, 6; wounded severely, 13; wounded slightly, 41; prisoner, 1.

The following five Connecticut boys are among those mentioned in the list: Killed in action, Ernest C. Bell, Middletown; wounded severely, Roy L. Tower, 18 Admiral St., New Haven; Thomas Spawak, Hartford; wounded slightly, William G. E. Angerman, Rockville; Dennis F. Eagan, 11 Hubbell avenue, Ansonia; John H. F. Tobin, Stamford.

## BEGINNING PLANS FOR FOURTH LOAN

Washington, May 9.—Before work on the third liberty loan is finished the treasury's loan publicity bureau has started preparations for the fourth loan, which will be offered next fall. All artists and designers were asked today to submit designs for posters, window cards and buttons by June 1. These are to be donated to the government.

Bond buyers' buttons for the fourth loan will be smaller than those used in the third campaign and will be made of tin, in order to save celluloid for more important war purposes.

## EX-KING NOW IN ZURICH HOSPITAL

Zurich, Switzerland, May 9.—Former King Constantine of Greece has undergone an operation in Zurich hospital and is now out of danger. It is believed, however, that his convalescence will be slow.

ment has always dealt fairly with them and that their labor counts for so much at the present time to our men in France. It promises speedy action in the matter of wage increase and concludes by calling upon loyal workers to stick to their tasks pending an adjustment.

Another important phase in the situation was created when John J. O'Neill, state organizer of the American Federation of Labor, said in most emphatic terms that no assistance will be given by other unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, unless it is proven the strike of the machinists in Bridgeport has been endorsed by the International Association of Machinists through the executive body in Washington.

O'Neill said also that if the constitutionality of the new law forbidding persons to remain out of employment is sustained by the courts, the police will force men needed in the military establishment of the United States back into occupations essential to the government at this time.

When asked today if the machinists' union had obtained the endorsement of the international body in Washington, O'Neill said, "As far as I know they have not and I certainly would hear of it in case they had."

## CANNOT RESCUE FOUR WORKMEN IN N. Y. SUBWAY

New York, May 9.—Eight laborers who were imprisoned for six hours in a tunnel 100 feet below the surface, following the cave in of a subway excavation in Flatbush avenue, Brooklyn, late last night, were rescued early today, but no hope is held for four fellow workmen, also trapped in an adjoining section of the subway.

The rescued workmen were kept alive by means of compressed air forced through pipes which had been sunk from the street to the tunnel.

## TORPEDOES REMOVED SAFELY

Destruction of Numerous Shops Appears to Be Certain.

## NEW HAVEN FIRE FAST SPREADING

Number of Buildings at Depot Will Be Completely Razed.

New Haven, May 9.—A fire of serious aspect started this noon in a round house adjacent to the shops of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, southwest of the station here destroyed yesterday.

Destruction of the shops, covering many acres, seems likely, although opportunities for fighting the blaze are excellent.

The heart of the fire is in a storehouse in which among other things the railroad stored its track torpedoes. Firemen were engaged for some time in getting out boxes of these explosives. The fire may take a number of buildings.

## VON HERTLING MAY DISSOLVE PRUSS. CHAMBER

Amsterdam, May 9.—Count von Hertling, the German imperial chancellor and Prussian premier, has decided to dissolve the Prussian chamber if the third reading of the franchise reform bill is rejected, the Cologne Gazette asserts.

In confirming reports that negotiations are in progress for Duke Frederick of Mecklenburg-Schwerin to accept the Finnish crown the Rheinische Westfälische Zeitung of Essen says the relations between Germany and Finland are likely to be of a military and economic nature.

Before the reichstag food committee last week Socialist Deputy Haase, according to German newspapers, demanded that the war office deal with the "scandal" of food smuggling from the front. He said a soldier could no longer obtain leave unless he "dragged home with him parcels from officers containing food for their families."

The deputy said it was difficult to say whether the people would tolerate the seemingly inevitable reduction of the bread ration to delay in the arrival of grain from the Ukraine.

## DYING AMERICANS

London May 9.—A dinner to 1,000 American naval and military officers and Y. M. C. A. representatives was given at the National Sporting club last night.

## U. S. GOVERNMENT MAKES APPEAL TO STRIKERS

"The War Department is investigating wage conditions at Bridgeport and expects to reach a definite conclusion in the very near future. Rates to be established will date from May 1st. We learn with extreme regret and surprise that strikes are contemplated in Remington Arms and several other shops manufacturing munitions which are needed immediately by Pershing's soldiers in France. In view of the fact that the government has an adjustment under way and also in view of the extremely grave situation existing in France every loyal American employed in these shops has an obligation to the government and to its Army in France to keep production going. In view of these facts, we expect the men to stand by the government and remain at work pending an adjustment."

(Signed) BRIG-GEN. WILLIAMS,  
"Chief of Army Ordnance."

## BOCHES AMBUSH YANKEE PATROL IN TOUL SECTOR

With the American Army in France, May 9.—(By the Associated Press)—An American patrol on the Toul sector fell victim to a silent enemy ambush some time last night. The Germans evidently used bayonets and the butts of their rifles. The Americans went out early in the evening and nothing further was heard of them until another patrol happened to cross the spot where the others had been ambushed. Not one shot was fired during the encounter as far as was known.

## ASQUITH MOVES MOTION TO SIFT GRAVE CHARGE

EX-PREMIER IN COMMONS THIS AFTERNOON IS  
AUTHOR OF MOTION THAT MAY BRING  
ABOUT GRAVE CRISIS IN ENGLISH GOVERNMENT.

London, May 9.—Ex-Premier Asquith moved a motion in the house of commons this afternoon for the appointment of a select committee to investigate the charges made by Gen. Maurice, former director of military operations at the war office.

Asquith said he thought it was not the business of parliament to constantly inquire into the conduct of successive phases of the war. The house of commons, he added, had more than enough of such inquiries already.

London, May 9.—Premier Lloyd-George was cheered loudly when he arose to speak. He said he had been treated unfairly. It was the business of Gen. Maurice to come to the cabinet and point out where the minister had made mistakes, he declared.

## STOREHOUSE FIRE IN NEW HAVEN IS DELAYING TRAINS

Fire which broke out at 12:10 o'clock this afternoon in a storage supply house of the New Haven railroad yards, in New Haven, was the cause of a general hold-up of traffic over the main line. At 2 o'clock the blaze was still raging, and the amount of damage could not be estimated. The origin of the flames is unknown.

The building burning this afternoon is a one story wooden structure 100 by 50 feet. It was used as a storehouse for equipment and was erected on the site of a similar structure which was destroyed by fire, two years ago.

Early this afternoon the firemen were fighting the flames with great vigor, and traffic on the main line, although considerably hampered, was not stopped entirely. It was said in New Haven that main line trains would not be held up completely unless the fire spread in the direction of the tracks.

The storehouse was located in the railroad yards just west of the passenger station which was burned to the ground yesterday.

## HITCHCOCK TO SUCCEED STONE

Washington, May 9.—Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska was made chairman today of the Senate Foreign Relations committee. Mr. Hitchcock, who was senior Democratic member of the committee, succeeds the late Senator Stone in a rearrangement of Democratic committee assignments caused by recent deaths of several senators.

## Washington Bridge Getting New Motors

Work on the installation of new motors at the Washington bridge in Stratford, is being rapidly completed, and it is expected that the draw will be in first class working order by Tuesday of next week. The bridge was ordered closed last week, by government officials, but a large tow of coal and structural iron was allowed to go through the span yesterday.

## HARD FIGHTING STILL PROGRESSES ON LINE IN FLANDERS REGION

TWO ENEMY DIVISIONS IN ATTACK WHICH  
NETTED SMALL GAIN ARE PUNISHED  
SEVERELY — GROUND RETAKEN  
IN COUNTER ATTACK.

## HEAVY FIGHTING, ALTHOUGH ON A COMPARATIVELY NARROW FRONT, IS CONTINUING IN FLANDERS, WHERE THE GERMANS BEGAN YES- TERDAY ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO DRIVE A WEDGE INTO THE ENTENTE LINES AND OUTFLANK THE HILL POSITIONS SOUTHWEST OF YPRES.

This attempt failed and only a temporary success was obtained by the enemy in gaining a foothold in the Allied front line at points between Voor-mezeele and La Clytte.

Last night the British and French drove back sharply at the Germans and ousted them from the small bits of territory they had won. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the two German divisions which were engaged in this operation.

Notwithstanding their heavy losses the Germans seem reluctant to abandon the effort and this morning found them renewing the attack to the north of Kemmel, in the Vierstraat region. A heavy machine gun fire forced the British line back at one point, but the recession was a slight one and the ground remained disputed territory. The fighting was continuing here when the day report from British headquarters was dispatched.

## HOLD MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR W. MARSHALL, JR.

Thursday, May 9

A memorial service for Wilson Marshall, Jr., who came to his death on the Aviation Field of Salisbury Plain, England, the last week, will be held at St. John's Episcopal church, Park and Fairfield avenues, on Friday afternoon, May 10, at 3 o'clock.

The memorial address will be delivered by the Rev. H. G. Buehler, headmaster of Hotchkiss school, Lakeville, Conn., where Marshall was once a student, he having graduated with honors there. The music for the occasion will be furnished by the vested choir of St. John's church under the direction of Alvin Bruel.

Miss Vera Curtis, of the Metropolitan Opera Company, New York City, and a friend of Marshall, will sing. Marshall was the first of the young men who have gone from St. John's church to the Great War to lose their lives. A gold star will be placed on the Service Flag of the church in the memory of him. Fifty-three other young men have also gone from this church, many of whom are now in France.

## CADET DIES FROM AEROPLANE FALL

New York, May 9.—Ralph E. Jeremy, Wilkesbarre, Pa., one of the army aviation cadets who fell 1,000 feet in a collision between two aeroplanes at Central Park, L. I., yesterday, died today at the signal corps hospital in Hempstead, L. I. The body will be shipped to his brother in Emporia, Kansas.

John Berwin of Muldrow, Miss., was killed in the accident and Julian R. Vidner of Washington, D. C., was slightly injured.

## LLOYD-GEORGE'S DAYS AS PREMIER NUMBERED

THOUGH IT IS EXPECTED PRESENT ADMINISTRATION  
WILL WEATHER STORM MANY BELIEVE IT WILL  
NOT LONG SURVIVE—PREMIER'S ANSWER READY.

London, May 9.—The Irish Nationalists, according to the Daily News, decided officially Wednesday night not to participate in the proceedings in parliament today.

If this information is accurate a substantial majority for the government in the event of a division would seem to be assured.

Although the indications are that the government will weather today's storm, it is interesting to note that for the first time in the history of the Lloyd-George administration, inspired intimations appear in that portion of the press that supports former Premier Asquith that in the event of the government being defeated there exists "an alternative government ready to step into the breach."

It is confidently declared in the

Heavy fighting, although on a comparatively narrow front, is continuing in Flanders, where the Germans began yesterday another attempt to drive a wedge into the Entente lines and outflank the hill positions southwest of Ypres.

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The British are continuing to improve their positions in the Somme region on the high ground between the Somme and the Agere. Further progress was made there during the night. There was local fighting in the Bucquoy region.

Seemingly the Germans are attacking in the hope of driving the Allies back toward the Kemmelbeck river and its branches or beyond Poperinghe and thus outflank the heights running west from Mont Kemmel. Very heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy in his previous strong effort to penetrate this line and the line about Loere and its adjoining hills. It may be that the attack is only a mask for a stronger effort elsewhere, although to break through the Voor-mezeele-Loere line might be of marked advantage to the enemy.

Elsewhere in Flanders and in Picardy the infantry has been inactive. The big runs, however, are roaring without cessation, especially north and south of the Avre, east of Amiens. Aerial fighting is most active and in a big air battle near Douai, British aviators brought down eight of the enemy without any losses. Four more German machines were brought down at other points.

Bad weather prevails on the American sectors in France. Northwest of Toul an American patrol has been ambushed by the Germans. In this sector also American heavy artillery has been in action for the first time.

The "drys" won two of the three local option elections held in South Jersey.